



# TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Embassy Suites & Convention Center  
800 Convention Center Blvd  
McAllen, Texas 78501

Friday, June 25, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

## **Virtual Meeting**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7247022291674166285>

### **Call to order**

Chairman Ritchey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **Prayer**

Mr. Jimmy Smith led the morning prayer.

### **Pledge**

Chairman Ritchey led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag.

### **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding excused absences (Action)**

Commissioner Morales, Allison Palmer, and Mona Lisa Chambers were absent. Chief Matthews moved to excuse their absences. James Castro seconded. The motion passed.

### **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding the January 29, 2021 Board meeting minutes (Action)**

Judge Jarrett moved to approve the minutes. Jimmy Smith seconded. The motion passed.

### **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding the April 9, 2021 Board meeting minutes (Action)**

Chief Hencerling moved to approve the minutes. Chief Barnes seconded. The motion passed.

### **Report from the chairman**

There were no public comments.

### **Report from the executive director**

Ms. Camille Cain, Executive Director, reported that we currently have no COVID at any facility or halfway house. Both session and veto period have ended. Of the bills that we discussed at the last meeting, two passed, HB 4544 and HB 1664. We have tracked over a dozen newly passed bills that will affect juvenile probation in the field, though none are anticipated to cause remarkable disruption to operations.

Ms. Cain announced that we now have a budget. Probation took a cut of one-tenth of one percent. On the state operations side, there was an overall 4.8% cut. As you know we were selected for Sunset Review this session. We have begun the process and are actively working on the first step, which is the Self-Evaluation Report, due on August 31.

We have been working on a Gang Intervention Program. This is multidisciplinary effort between our Facility Safety Team, OIG, Training, and the Treatment Team. The goal is to expand gang mitigation through intelligence, improved training, alignment to treatment and ensuring that we are using evidence-based approaches.

The Texas Model training series continues. WE have 12 topics planned in virtual session that anyone can attend and probation officers can receive training credit. Those sessions are also available on our website for replay. Additionally, we are working on a Caregiver series, that will allow youths' parents and family to attend and understand the basics of trauma, trauma interventions, and how to provide a more seamless reentry for kids when they come home.

### **Report from the chief inspector general**

Forrest Mitchell, Chief Inspector General, reported on law enforcement operations. He reported that the TJJD escapee from and Austin area hospital was apprehended thanks to the great police work of the Corpus Christi Police Department.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this fiscal year, OIG has opened relatively the same number of criminal investigation as it did last fiscal year. However, we closed fewer investigation than we did in the same quarter last fiscal year. The number of assault on public servant cases has remained relatively consistent. The number of sexual abuse investigations opened in the third quarter of this fiscal year has also remained relatively consistent with last year. However, proportionally OIG is seeing more staff suspects in those investigations as compared as to other juveniles. In this quarter, roughly half of the suspects identified were staff members, while last fiscal year, juveniles represented  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the suspects identified in those investigations.

Over the past eight months, OIG has initiated major criminal and administrative investigations involving multiple staff members at four of the five secure facilities regarding allegation of inappropriate relationships with TJJD Juveniles. In some of those investigations OIG has developed evidence of TJJD staff directly communication with juvenile offenders outside of work through the phone system, mail, and even iPads provided for virtual visitation. OIG has even arrested two of those former staff members for Hindering Apprehension or Prosecution surrounding the juveniles' escape, or absconding from TJJD custody and supervision.

OIG made fewer arrests this quarter than the same time frame last year. There were fewer Directives to Apprehend issued this quarter than the same time last year, however OIG is currently seeing a spike in halfway house absconds. In regards to OIG and SPU prosecution data, there have been slightly more indictments this quarter as well as more convictions or adjudications. This past quarter, there were a total of 106 cases taken into consideration by SPU as part of an agreement. There were also only 21 OIG cases declined this quarter. There were a total of 7 dismissals of OIG cases this quarter.

Now in regards to OIG County Operations, and the number reports, grievances, abuse, neglect, and exploitations, there was a decline in some of these numbers. There were fewer grievances and serious incidents called in, however the number of complaints grew this quarter, while the number of ANE cases remained the same. We were able to reduce the average number of days to close a county investigation from 69 days in FY20 to only 46 days for this quarter.

At the beginning of this quarter however, it should be noted in regards to County calls and complaints, that IRC phone system and fax line were down, and OIG telecommunications specialists were operating off of a backup cell phone. We were experiencing longer wait times, and lost calls. This is also why our numbers of total IRC calls is not currently available for this report.

OIG were tracking approximately 100 bills specifically dealing the Texas peace officers. Some of these bills dealt with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, peace officer hiring, selection, background investigations, policies, complaints, training including continuing education requirements. There will be changes to the continuing education requirements of the OIG peace officers, as well as changes to OIG use of force policies and hiring practices based on the legislation passed in the session. One very significant outcome of the session for OIG was the restoration of two peace officer FTEs in the OIG budget. There was also a change in the job classification act of the state budget which will be positively impacting the pay group and salaries of more of the IRC specialist working at the IRC.

He recognized two visitors to our board meeting today. The Executive Director of the Special Prosecutions Unit, Jack Choate, and his Juvenile Prosecutions Chief, Jana Jones.

#### **Report from The Advisory Council on Juvenile Services**

Lou Serrano, Deputy Executive Director of Probation Services, provided this report for Chief Ed Cockerell. He provided a brief update on the council's last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2021.

#### **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of the state aid and targeted grants contract for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (Action)**

Ashley Kintzer, Manager of Regionalization and County Grants, discussed the changes to grants contract. Chief Matthew moved to approve. Chief Barnes seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of the grants allocation for FY22 (Action)**

Amy Miller, Director of Probation Services, presented recommendations for FY22. Chief Hencerling had a question about the risk needs assessment. Ms. Miller said we're bringing that money back in so we can refund it back out. Chief Hencerling moved to approve. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of the Juvenile Supervision Officer and Juvenile Probation Officer Certification Audit (Action)**

Eleazar Garcia, Chief Internal Auditor, presented the audit. The objective of the audit was to determine if the certification process is functioning as intended. Mr. Garcia noted opportunities to improve. Management concurs with the results of the audit. Chief Matthew had a question about 11 officers that had revocations. Mr. Garcia said it shows up in the admin side that those officers have been revoked but not on the county side. It's a matter of getting them listed on the ineligible list. Chief Matthew said that seems to be a simple IT fix. Mr. Garcia concurred. Mr. Smith asked if anyone has slipped through the cracks. Mr. Garcia stated there are separate controls in the process that should detect it. Chief Matthew moved to approve. Judge Jarrett seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval of the Legislative Reporting Division Use of TEA Student Data Consulting Project (Action)**

Mr. Garcia presented the consulting project. The objective was to determine if the agency was in compliance with the agreement. Result of the review will be reported to TEA. Due to the nature of the findings, details are not included in the report. Management concurred with the findings. Ms. Lattimore move to approve. Chief Hencerling seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Discussion, consideration, and possible approval regarding contracts requiring board approval pursuant to GAP.385.1101 (Action)**

- a. Reliant Energy Retail Services, LLC
- b. State Office of Risk Management (SORM) (new 2-year contract)

- c. Univ. of TX Medical Branch at Galveston (new 2-year contract)
- d. Texas Department of Information Resources
- e. Associated Marine Institute Kids
- f. Cornerstone Programs, Inc.
- g. Rite of Passage, Inc. (The Oaks)
- h. Rite of Passage
- i. Pegasus Schools, Inc.
- j. Gulf Coast Trade Center
- k. Consolidated Telecom, Inc.
- l. Harris/Montgomery Co. Halfway House(new contract)
- m. Connect (new contract for IT)

Christian von Wupperfeld, General Council, presented each of the contracts. Judge Jarrett moved to approve. Mr. Castro seconded. The motion passed.

Closed Session – Executive Session at 10:04 a.m.

- a. Government Code §551.071 Consultation with attorney regarding litigation (see footnote)
- b. Government Code §551.072 Deliberation regarding real property (John C. Wende and Parrie Haynes trusts)
- c. Government Code §551.074 Discussion regarding personnel matters

Reconvene in Open Session at 10:23 a.m.

**Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding agenda items discussed in Executive Session (Action)**

There were no items to discuss for action.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned.

- The Texas Juvenile Justice Board reserves the right to limit the time and scope of public comments as deemed appropriate by the Board.
- The Texas Juvenile Justice Board reserves the right to take formal Board action on any posted agenda item if necessary.
- Items may not necessarily be considered in the order in which they appear on the agenda.
- The Texas Juvenile Justice Board may go into closed session with respect to any item as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, as codified in Texas Government Code Section 551.071.
- If ADA accommodations are needed, please contact Jeannette Cantu at 512.490.7004 or
- The Texas Juvenile Justice Board reserves the right to broadcast its meeting live.